

Utah State Parks and Recreation news for July 28, 2010:

- Sixteen fatalities prompt helmet, life jacket use
- Boating education courses available
- Boating safety tip of the week
- Utah State Parks and Recreation Events

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
July 28, 2010

## **SIXTEEN FATALITIES PROMPT STATE PARK RANGERS TO URGE HELMET, LIFE JACKET USE**

Salt Lake City – Recent drownings in Morgan and Duchesne counties, boating accidents in Summit and Willard counties, and off-highway vehicle (OHV) fatalities in Summit and Sanpete counties have prompted Utah State Parks Rangers to urge life jacket and helmet use.

Utah State Parks and Recreation, which administers the state boating and OHV programs, reports there have been six boating and 10 OHV fatalities already this year. Program managers say the majority of fatalities are adults.

“Most of the fatal accidents our rangers have responded to this year are adult victims,” said Utah State Parks Acting Deputy Director and OHV Program Manager Fred Hayes. “Our youth OHV and boating education programs seem to be reaching their intended audience, now we must focus on adults.”

All OHV operators and riders should wear a helmet, but it’s mandatory for everyone under 18.

Everyone should wear a life jacket at all times when they are on or near the water. Life jackets are required for anyone boating or floating on rivers, operating or riding on a personal watercraft or being towed behind a boat. Inner tubes, rubber rafts and water toys are considered boats.

Utah Boating Program Manager Dave Harris reports with more people on the water, the need for education is greater. All boaters are strongly encouraged to take a boating education course, and it’s the law for youth 12 through 17 to be certified to operate a personal watercraft (PWC, JetSki-type boat).

“Know your abilities and limitations, and speak out against and stop dangerous behavior,” added Hayes. “Always wear a helmet when riding OHVs and a life jacket while on the water,”

For more education and safety information, please visit [stateparks.utah.gov](http://stateparks.utah.gov) or call 877-UT-PARKS.

###

**BOATING EDUCATION COURSES AVAILABLE**

**Salt Lake City** – The Utah State Parks and Recreation Boating Program offers a boating education course aimed at adults and focusing on boating safety, laws and rules, boater responsibilities and ethics. As an added incentive, some insurance companies offer discounts to those completing and passing the course.

An online course is available for \$35 and is recognized by other states requiring boating education. A free home study course is also available, but is valid only in Utah.

Throughout 2010, Utah State Parks and Recreation enters student names into a prize drawing for chances to win annual park passes, life jackets, safety equipment and gift certificates to local marine shops.

To access the online course, visit [stateparks.utah.gov](http://stateparks.utah.gov). To receive a printed copy of the course, please send an email to [usprboating@utah.gov](mailto:usprboating@utah.gov) and request a copy. For more information, please call 1-800-RIDE-PWC.

###

#### **UTAH STATE PARKS BOATING SAFETY TIP OF THE WEEK**

**Salt Lake City** – If you are involved in a boating accident on Utah's waterways, contact a Utah State Parks and Recreation Ranger or any other law enforcement officer as soon as possible.

In addition, boat operators must complete and submit a Recreational Boating Accident Report to Utah State Parks within 10 days if there is: combined property damage in excess of \$2,000; if someone sustains personal injury and medical treatment beyond basic first aid; or if there is a fatality.

Required report information includes boat operator name, address, accident date and location, boat vessel number, boat owner name and address, and names of fatalities. Accident forms are available online at [stateparks.utah.gov/boating/accident](http://stateparks.utah.gov/boating/accident).

For additional information, please visit [stateparks.utah.gov](http://stateparks.utah.gov) or call (801) 538-BOAT. Wear it Utah!

###

#### **UPCOMING UTAH STATE PARKS EVENTS**

August 13 – 15      Rockport State Park - Peoa  
17th Annual Rockport Dam Jam: Bring your instruments and join in the fun. Jam sessions continue all day and into the night. If you don't play, come and enjoy the music. Camping is available. (435) 336-2241

August 13      Dead Horse Point State Park - Moab  
Uranium- One of Moab's Geological Wonders: Join guest speaker Nathaniel Clark

from Canyonlands National Park for a program about the geology around Moab.  
Meet at the visitor center amphitheater at 8 p.m. (435) 259-2614

August 13                      Escalante Petrified Forest State Park - Escalante  
Geology Hike: Travel back in time 150 million years and explore the park's unique geology on a guided one-mile hike to the Petrified Forest. Meet at the visitor center at 9 a.m. (435) 826-4466

August 14                      Wasatch Mountain State Park - Midway  
Trail Work Day: Help us work on the trails at Dutch Hollow starting at 9 a.m. Projects include re-routing trails, adding and fixing water bars and pruning. Meet at the Dutch Hollow Trailhead just off River Road in Midway. (435) 654-1791

August 14                      Wasatch Mountain State Park - Midway  
Dutch Oven With a Ranger: Join Park Ranger Drew Patterson as he demonstrates some tried and true Dutch oven recipes. Learn some tips and tricks and enjoy food samples. Program begins at 7 p.m. at the campground amphitheater. (435) 654-1791

August 14                      Rock Cliff Nature Center/ Jordanelle State Park- Francis  
Junior Ranger Program - Be Sun Wise: Children six to 10 are invited to join the park naturalist for a look at the sun (with solar glasses of course). Learn how to protect yourself from the sun and observe your shadow. Program begins at 11 a.m. Rock Cliff Nature Center is located on the east side of Jordanelle Reservoir. (435) 782-3030.

August 16                      Dead Horse Point State Park - Moab  
Desert Dwelling Birds: Join us for a guided bird walk and learn to identify desert birds by sight and sound. Understand how desert dwelling birds survive the harsh conditions of their home environment. Meet at the visitor center at 7:30 pm. Please be sure to bring water and sturdy shoes. (435) 259-2614

-utah state parks-